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THE

MATERIAL CONDITION

OF THE

PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS

BY

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NOTE.

The edition of the Christian Examiner for July, 1858, being nearly exhausted, and frequent inquiries having been made for Mr. Parker's article on "The Material Condition of the People of Massachusetts," contained therein, the proprietor of the Examiner has consented to the reissue of the article in the present form.

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THE MATERIAL CONDITION

OF THE

PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS.*

We intend in this article to write of the material condition of the people of Massachusetts. In detail we shall treat of the number of the people; of their marriages, their births, and their deaths; then also of the property of the people; of idiocy, insanity, blindness, and sickness; of the means of education; and the means for the repression of crime. At the end of all we shall offer some hints as moral, not to a fable, but to a fact. For convenience' sake, we put the statistics into tables, — apples of gold in vessels of silver.

I. Of the Persons in the State. — On the first day of June, 1855, there were in Massachusetts 1,132,369 persons. To-day the number is doubtless greater, but let it be considered as still the same.

1. They are thus divided in respect to race: —

9,767 are black men of the African race, whereof 6,923 are pure negroes, 2,844 are mixed.

139 are red men, of the American or Indian race; of these, six only are pure Indian, the rest are mixed with the blood of other races. This is the poor remnant of the

* Fifteenth Report to the Legislature of Massachusetts relating to the Registry and return of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in the Commonwealth, for the year ending December 31, 1856. By Francis De Witt, Secretary of the Commonwealth. Boston, 1857. 8vo. pp. xvi. and 287.

great savage population which filled up the land two hundred and fifty years ago, as confident in their "manifest destiny" as their civilized successors are to-day. It is painful to consider the fate of the thousands of men who once filled the forests of New England! We know of no justification for the conduct of our fathers, who often treated the Indians like beasts of prey. But even now the Americans are scarcely more merciful.

There are 1,122,463 of the Caucasian race; of these 877,280 are natives of the United States; 244,685 are foreigners; 498 are of unknown nativity.

Putting all together, black, red, and white, there are 886,575 inhabitants of Massachusetts who were born here, 245,263 foreigners, and 531 of doubtful origin. Besides, in 1850, 199,582 natives of Massachusetts were living elsewhere in the United States, and there are 30,000 or 40,000 probably now residing in other countries of the earth.

The historical growth of the population of Massachusetts is a little remarkable. In 1620, the first white settlers — not counting the Scandinavians who actually came in the Middle Ages — dropped their anchor in the shallow waters of "New Plymouth." The following tables show the subsequent growth in numbers. The first table is conjectural: —

TABLE I. — *Population of Massachusetts from* 1620 *to* 1775.

Year.	Population.	Year.	Population.
1620	101	1749	220,000
1701	70,000	1775	352,000

TABLE II. — *Population of Massachusetts from* 1790 *to* 1855.

Year.	Population.	Year.	Population.
1790	378,717	1830	610,408
1800	423,245	1840	737,699
1810	472,041	1850	994,514
1820	523,287	1855	1,132,369

The figures of this last table rest on actual official count. Truly, this is a pretty respectable increase in two hundred and thirty-five years. Our fathers started with Puritanism and the wilderness, and this is the numeric result which has come of their ciphering!

2. They are thus distributed in respect to sex: —

550,034 are males, 582,335 are females; thus there are 32,301 more of womankind than of mankind in the State, — 106 women to 100 men. More males are born every year, and more females die; still the women surpass the men. It is thought an excess of women migrates in, and an excess of men migrates out, and hence the perpetual superabundance of women and its unavoidable consequences.*

These persons live in 228,845 families, and occupy 175,311 dwellings.

3. They are thus distributed in respect to age. Human life may be divided into three periods: the Dependent age, from birth to 15; the Productive age, from 15 to 60; the Retiring age, from 60 to the end.

TABLE III. — *Age of the Population.*

358,904	of the	Dependent age.	31.69	per cent of	whole pop.
701,100	"	Productive age.	61.91	" "	"
70,024	"	Retiring age.	6.40	" "	"

2,341 of unascertained age.

In 1855 there were 132,944 under 5, and 19 over 100. In the various countries of Europe the average age of all the population varies from 26 to 33; we do not know the figures for Massachusetts; the average of the dying we shall give in a subsequent page. Out of 100 persons, 32 are under 15; 62 between 15 and 60; 6 are over three-

*In Upper Canada there are 46,128 more males than females. Yet there are 15,528 widows, and only 8,742 widowers.

score; while only one out of 65,000 ever sees his hundredth birthday. We shall presently return to this matter of longevity.

4. The adult males are thus occupied in various trades. On the first of June, 1855, there were 333,542 males in the State over 15 years of age, whose industrial business was reported in the census of that year. We give the result below: —

TABLE IV. — *Occupations of the People.*

Business.	Number.	Percentage.
Mechanics	122,251	36.63
Laborers	60,248	18.06
Farmers	57,031	17.10
Traders	29,039	8.71
Mariners and boatmen	16,346	4.91
Factory operatives	8,801	2.64
Professional men	8,312	2.49
Manufacturers	5,294	1.59
Miscellaneous work	26,220	7.87
Total	333,542	100.00

About 41,000 men work upon leather, either in manufacturing the article or moulding it into various forms. There are 1,800 doctors; 1,750 ministers, of large and small denominations; 1,545 printers; 1,584 coopers; 1,116 lawyers; and 1,080 peddlers. Thus, out of 100 males over fifteen years old, 3 work in factories; 5 are sailors; 9 are traders; 17 are farmers; 18 are laborers; and 37 mechanics, of whom 12 work upon leather; every eighth man in the State is a shoemaker.

If we look back to the history of productive industry in Massachusetts we shall see that a great change has taken place. A large part of the men are now at work under cover, in factories or shops, and are also dependent on some man or corporation who employs them. It was not so a hundred years ago, when the majority worked each

man for himself, and the great mass of the people in the open air. This change in the industry of the people brings with it important consequences, which appear in the size, health, and longevity of the people, and also in the amount of their free individuality. There is less physical strength in a thousand working-men now than in 1750, we think; less individual freedom of thought and manly independence. The industrial, like other battles, is won with a loss. Man's body comes into equilibrium with the circumstances it is exposed to, oscillating for a while between its maximum and minimum of energy; the spirit of man also accommodates itself to its surroundings, as any one can see in England, Spain, and Turkey.

> "'T is the day of the chattel,
> Web to weave, and corn to grind;
> Things are in the saddle,
> And ride mankind.
> There are two laws discrete,
> Not reconciled, —
> Law for man, and law for thing;
> The last builds town and fleet,
> But it runs wild,
> And doth the man unking."

II. Of the Marriages of the People.* — Here we take the facts for the year ending December 31, 1856. No State returns of a later date have been published, but the returns of the city of Boston come down a year later.

In 1856 there were 12,265 couples married in Massachusetts. The number is 1,418 less than that of 1854. Is marriage diminishing in Massachusetts? The extravagant habits of luxurious men and women put marriage

* Fifteenth Report to the Legislature of Massachusetts relating to the Registry and return of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in the Commonwealth, for the year ending December 31, 1856. By Francis De Witt, &c. Boston, 1857.

Report of the City Registrar of the Births, Marriages, and Deaths in the City of Boston for the year 1857. Boston, 1858.

out of the reach of many, vanity prevailing over affection. As flounces increase in number and greaten in size, wives diminish and lessen. A woman becomes an article of luxury. It is instructive to notice the proportion between the marriages of natives and foreigners. Mr. De Witt has put the wedlock of four years into a table, as follows.

TABLE V. — *Marriages in Massachusetts from* 1853 *to* 1856.

Nativity of the Parties.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1853–56.
Both parties American	7,381	7,492	6,918	6,818	28,609
" " Foreign	4,057	4,797	4,269	4,323	17,446
Amer. groom, for. bride	485	542	467	495	1,989
For. groom, Amer. bride	458	512	487	487	1,944
Nativity not ascertained	447	340	188	142	1,117
Total	12,828	13,683	12,329	12,265	

Of the 2,536 men who were married in Boston in 1856, only 1,033 were born in the United States, while 1,503 were foreigners, — 960 of whom were natives of Ireland. Of the 2,536 women married here in that year, only 989 were natives of the United States, but 341 of whom were born in Boston; while 1,080 Irishwomen were made joyful with so many men. With that class extravagance does not hinder wedlock. The poor can always afford marriage.

In the whole State the American outnumber the foreign marriages.

It is always interesting to know at what age the parties become one, so we have constructed the following table: —

TABLE VI. — *Age at the time of Marriage.*

	Under 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 50.	Ab've 50.
Males	206	5,096	3,641	1,422	694	632	391
Females	2,739	5,493	2,235	751	353	304	457

Two boys of 16 were married; 1 girl of 13; 11 of 14; 63 of 15; 176 of 16; and 32 of 17! The oldest bride-

groom was between 75 and 80; the oldest bride was between 60 and 65. So it seems 23 per cent. of the Massachusetts wives marry before 20; 45 per cent. between 20 and 25; in other words at 20 the maiden has escaped about one-fourth part of the risks of being married, but sailing is now dangerous; at 25 a little more than two-thirds of the peril is gone; while at 30 there is only about one chance in six that she will ever encounter that shipwreck.

In Kentucky, in 1855, out of 5,353 women who were married, and whose ages are recorded, it appears that 1 was married at 11; 8 at 13; 17 at 14; 2,260 under 20; 4,161 under 25. One woman at 73 married a man of 81. A maiden of 75 joined herself (and her estate) to a man of 25! "And may God Almighty have mercy on your souls!" would have been the appropriate benediction.

III. Of the Number of Births. — In 1856 there were 34,445 children born in Massachusetts. Out of 200 of these babies about 103 are boys and 97 girls; this rule seems to be nearly constant in our State. Of these children 15,908 had both parents Americans, while 16,513 had a foreigner for father or mother; the nativity of the parents of 2,024 was not ascertained. The illegitimate births are reported as only 257, of which 118 took place in the two State almshouses. But this matter is not investigated as it should be; the number of extra-matrimonial births is greater, though probably much less than in any other country of Christendom.

The proportion of children of foreign extraction varies in different parts of the State. Thus, in the County of Suffolk, there were 6,251 births; but only 1,634 children had an American father and mother, while 3,955 had both parents foreign: only 1,881 had American fathers; but 4,202 had foreign fathers. Suffolk County is only a New England "County Cork"; Boston is but the "Dublin"

of America. 5,866 babies were born in Boston in 1856; only 1,670 had American fathers, only 902 Massachusetts fathers, only 428 Boston fathers; while more than 2,900 children had both parents Irish. Thirty pairs of Irish twins crowded into the world of Boston that year!

In the seven years from 1850 to 1856, there were but 13,182 children born in Suffolk County to American fathers; while the foreign fathers rejoiced in the paternity of 26,924 children. In one case three Irish children rushed at one birth into the land of promise. Not long since a true Hibernian birth took place: a woman was delivered of twins, one of whom was born in 1855 and the other in 1856. This, we take it, could happen only in the case that both parents were Irish!

Some parts of Boston are more fertile than others. Thus, in 1856, in Ward 2 (East Boston) there was one birth for every 21 persons; while in Ward 4 there was but one birth to 63 persons. In Ward 2 every eleventh female bore a child that year. In the whole city there was one birth to every 27.48 persons. The birth of colored children was only one in 44.40; in 1857, it was but one in 65. This comparative sterility of colored women in Boston is a remarkable fact. Is the climate too severe for these children of the tropics? or is the cause found in the abandoned life of many colored women?

At the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Cheltenham, in 1856, Mr. Clibborn read a remarkable paper "On the Tendency of European Races to become Extinct in the United States." His purpose was to exhibit the "probability of the extinction on the continent of North America, not only of the Celtic or Irish race, but of all other European races, provided intercourse with Europe is entirely interrupted." A writer in the Boston Daily Advertiser some time since

showed the absurdity of this opinion, and mentioned that the population of the United States increases "six times as fast as Great Britain, and ten times as fast as France." We would add a few facts, gathered from other sources, showing that population is not likely to cease at present. Dr. Wetherspoon, of the United States Army, reports that in the neighborhood of Fort Kent, on the St. John's River in Maine, on the British side of that river, some of the Celtic descendants of old Acadians are settled: in 12 families living within a mile of the garrison, and taken without exception, there were 93 children; the married life of the 24 parents was in all but 162 years, — a child for every 20½ months! M. Burgoyne had 18 children by his first wife, 2 by the second. His oldest daughter has been married 11 years, and had 8 children; his mother had three pairs of twins. M. Ferriand has had 26 children by one wife; she was 53 years old when the last was born! M. Le Crog had 19 children in 18 years, — five pairs of twins. M. Cire has had 22 children, all single births; his wife was 14 at marriage, now 43. There are six families at Green River, within the space of a mile, who have had in all 106 children, — an average of 17.66 births to a marriage. Four women had 84 children! Marriage of girls at 13 or 14 is not uncommon. The wife of Jacque Camel had been married 11 years, and has had 7 children, all now living except the first, who died at the age of four. "She has always been in the habit of nursing her children from one birth to another." * The settlers in Canada, as well as the United States, have proved that the country is not one "that eateth up the inhabitants thereof." † We

* Statistical Report on the Sickness and Mortality in the Army of the United States, from July, 1839, to July, 1855, (Washington, 1856, 4to,) p. 24, *et seq.*

† Census of the Canadas, 1851-2, (2 vols. 8vo, Quebec, 1853-4,) Vol. I. pp. xi, xv-xix, *et passim;* Vol. II. p. 22, *et seq.*, where there are some remarkable statistics of health and longevity. See, too, Annual Report of the Schools in Upper Canada for 1855, (1 vol. 8vo, Toronto, 1856,) pp. 48, *et seq.*, 162, *et seq.*

know a gentleman whose six American male ancestors will average 77 at death, while the six females come up to 80! Such examples are not uncommon. The descendants of the white man and the red woman are short-lived.

IV. Of the Number of Deaths. — 20,734 died in Massachusetts in 1856. — 10,201 were males: 10,401, females; 132 were of unreported sex.

1. In the whole State the average age at death was 26.97; in Dukes County, 45.53; in Suffolk County, 19.98. In Suffolk, ten persons at death have lived about 200 years; in Dukes, about 460. In Middlesex, the average age at death is 25.31; in Bristol, Essex, Hampden, and Worcester, about 28; in Franklin, 34.64. Have the Irish and other Celtic people less tenacity of life than the Anglo-Saxons and their Teutonic kindred, or do circumstances cause the difference in duration of life? 4,226 died under one year. More than one fifth of all deaths are of babies not a year old; more than two fifths die before five. In Boston, the number of those who die before five is greater than all the deaths between 5 and 60; thus here the chances of death in the first 5 years are greater than in the next 55! Here the average age of all at death is about 20; of the native Americans, about 25; of the colored people, 27; of the foreigners, 17. It is often said the Africans in New England have less vitality than any other people. These facts do not support the theory. But in 1857, the average age of colored persons at death was only 25.24, while that of other native Americans was 27.57.

2. Women attain a greater age than men. Perhaps this is so in all countries. The following table shows the age at death of the various classes of men and women:—

TABLE VII. — *Age of Foreign and Native Males and Females at Death.*

Native-born females, at death, will average			29.94
Native-born males,	"	"	27.57
Foreign-born females,	"	"	17.93
Foreign-born males,	"	"	17.00
Native-born colored females,		"	25.46
Native-born colored males,		"	24.79

American males live ten years more than foreign males, and American females twelve years more than their sisters from abroad. Let us divide life as before into three periods, — the Dependent, from birth to 15; the Productive, from 15 to 60; the Retiring, from 60 till death, — and see what number die in each period. We omit all whose age is not ascertained.

TABLE VIII. — *Distribution of Death according to Age and Sex.*

1856.

	Dependent Age.	Productive Age.	Retiring Age.
Males	4,907	3,451	1,763
Females	4,301	4,091	1,937
Total	9,208	7,542	3,700

The mortality of males is greatest in the first period, while that of women takes precedence in the two others. The causes which produce this increased sacrifice of male life in the first fifteen years are not yet well ascertained.

The following table contains facts for the years 1852–56, and shows the comparative mortality of men and women at different ages.

TABLE IX. — *Distribution of Death according to Sex and Age.*

1852 – 56.

	Under 1.	Under 5.	Between 20 and 30.	Over 30.
Males	12,245	20,782	4,888	24,446
Females	9,061	17,684	6,787	26,480
Total	21,306	38,466	11,675	50,926

Here, too, the superior longevity of woman appears.

The same law prevails in other countries. Mr. Neison furnishes the facts for England,* whence we have constructed the following table: —

TABLE X. — *Expectation of Life in England.*

Age.	For Males.	For Females.	Age.	For Males.	For Females.
10	47.75	48.38	50	20.84	22.05
15	44.17	44.99	60	14.58	15.53
20	40.69	41.59	70	9.21	9.84
25	37.34	38.36	80	5.21	5.63
30	34.09	35.16	90	2.89	3.09
40	27.47	28.73	100	2.13	1.87

The same law appears in Belgium. We gather the curious statistics from M. Quetelet's celebrated book.† In Belgium the males and females are nearly equal in number.

TABLE XI. — *Comparative Vitality of Males and Females.*

	In Cities.	In Country.
For 100 females stillborn there are	133 males.	170 males.
For 100 fms. who die there are in 1st 3 mos.	130 "	126 "
" " " " 3 to 12 mos.	115 "	109 "
" " " " 1 to 5 yrs.	103 "	90.50 "
" " " " 5 to 14	90 "	93 "
" " " " 14 to 18	82 "	75 "
" " " " 18 to 21	98 "	92 "
" " " " 21 to 40	104 "	86.33 "
" " " " 40 to 50	102 "	83 "
" " " " 50 to 60	107 "	118 "
" " " " 60 to 70	96 "	105 "
" " " " 70 to 80	77 "	100 "
" " " " 80 to 100	68 "	92 "

* Contributions to Vital Statistics, being a Development of the Rate of Mortality and the Laws of Sickness, &c., &c. By F. G. P. NEISON. Third edition. London, 1857. 1 vol. 4to. See pp. 40, 607, 615.

† Sur l'Homme et le Développement de ses Facultés, &c., (Paris, 1855, 2 vols. 8vo,) Vol. I. p. 157.

In Boston the colored people furnish a striking exception to the general rule; 38 colored males died here in 1856, and 33 colored females; the average age of the former was 30 years, of the latter, a little less than 25. It should be remembered that many colored females belong to the lowest class of prostitutes. There are but two places in New England where the colored are regarded as entitled to the same rights with the whites, — one is the lowest haunt of corruption, the other the company of the most religious and humane of all philanthropists.

3. The deaths are thus distributed among natives and foreigners, males and females: —

TABLE XII. — *Distribution of Deaths in* 1856.

Native Americans.		Foreigners.	
16,678.		3,191.	
Males,	8,186	Males,	1,633
Females,	8,391	Females,	1,557
Sex not reported,	101	Sex not reported,	1

During the last three years about 16 per cent. of all deaths in Massachusetts have been those of foreigners.

It is instructive to look at the causes of death: 841 died by violence last year, — most of them by accident, that is, by some man's carelessness. In the 15 years and 8 months ending December 31, 1856, no less than 4,081 persons have perished here by violence: whereof 3 were hanged by the sheriff; 108 were murdered; 860 committed suicide, — 101 in 1856; and 3,110 came to an end by "other violent causes" not distinctly named in the reports. Americans are singularly reckless of life; but yet suicide is less common in Massachusetts than in many other civilized countries. Thus, by the celebrated Gotha tables, — calculated from the narrow basis of 2,807 lives, — it appears that one death out of 44 was by suicide.*

* See Neison, *ubi supra*, p. 189 *et seq.* Also Buckle's History of Civilization, (London, 1857,) Vol. I. p. 26, *et seq.*

The population of London is less than double that of Massachusetts, but its suicides are more than twice as many, varying from 203 to 266 a year. This crime is on the increase in Massachusetts.

TABLE XIII. — *Increase of Suicides from* 1849 *to* 1856.

Year.	No. of Suicides.	Year.	No. of Suicides.
1849	67	1853	67
1850	49	1854	82
1851	57	1855	91
1852	76	1856	101

The greater proclivity of the male to violence appears in the number of suicides, — 71 per cent. are male, 29 female. "*Omnis natura in re minima*," is an old rule. The greatest number of Massachusetts suicides takes place in May. It seems in Europe this crime is more common amongst Protestants than Catholics. Any thoughtful man would expect it to be in some proportion to the amount of freedom of thought and individual self-direction. Babies do n't fall till they begin to go alone; while in the cradle, they break no bones.

Many children are born dead. Infanticide takes two forms, — ante-natal and post-natal. The law of Massachusetts regards the latter as a crime, and punishes it as other forms of murder; but it takes no notice of the former. We cannot furnish the statistics of abortion; but judging from what we have learned, they would be more frightful than those of any other form of New England crime. It is not less murder to destroy the life of a child in a woman's body, than in a man's cradle or a public highway. If thoughtful men do not ascertain the extent of this enormity, — and that among "respectable" women, — by noticing the average number of children to a marriage, or by reading the advertisements of abortionists in the public papers, they may ask any intelligent

physician of this town, and he will tell them facts we do not care to shame these pages with. Much of the mortality of children in the first three years of life may often be traced to the mother's efforts to be no mother.*

Of the 20,748 who died in 1856, we find 978 died of old age; 4 of these had reached the respectable period of 100, or more. Old age, we take it, is the only death that is natural to man and unavoidable.

It is not our purpose to give an account of the various diseases which have made havoc of men; we leave that to the physicians. But we would call attention to the effect of a man's business and his locality on the length of his life.

In the 12 years and 8 months ending with 1856, 38,027 persons over 20 years old have died in Massachusetts, whose age and business were ascertained and reported in the official documents. The facts are shown in the following table: —

TABLE XIV. — *Of Occupation and Longevity.*

Occupation.	No. of Persons.	Aggregate Length of Life.	Average Age at Death.
Farmers	10,741	689,466	64.19
Coopers	305	17,790	58.32
Lawyers	188	10,746	57.15
Ministers	265	15,108	57.01
Shipwrights	275	15,456	56.20
Doctors	366	20,088	54.85
Blacksmiths	743	38,513	51.83
Wheelwrights	167	8,586	51.41
Carpenters	1,679	83,365	49.65
Merchants and traders	1,674	83,099	49.36
Tanners and curriers	214	10,284	48.05
Tavern-keepers	158	7,581	47.98

* See some remarks on this matter in Transactions of the American Medical Association for 1857, (New York, 1857, 1 vol. 8vo,) p. 93, *et seq.*

Occupation.	No. of Persons.	Aggregate Length of Life.	Average Age at Death.
Masons	401	19,017	47.42
Cabinet-makers	228	10,735	47.08
Seamen	2,561	118,366	46.21
Laborers	7,300	326,324	44.71
Manufacturers	343	15,231	44.40
Stonecutters	223	9,792	43.91
Shoemakers	2,741	118,489	43.22
Mechanics	466	20,101	43.13
Tailors	346	14,655	42.35
Painters	429	18,095	42.18
Machinists	409	15,350	37.55
Printers	150	5,490	36.60

It is now quite clear that in all civilized countries the average life of man is lengthening; yet it may be doubtful whether cases of extreme longevity are on the increase. We have never found any well-authenticated case of a man reaching his two-hundredth year. Thomas Parr was born in Shropshire, England, in 1483, and died in 1635, nearly 153 years old. He worked at farming till about 130; when 116 or 118, it is said, he became unlawfully the father of a child, and was punished ecclesiastically by walking on Sunday in a white sheet in front of the church in his parish. He married for the last time when near 120. At his death Dr. Harvey opened the body and found no signs of decay. One of his grandsons died at 120. In 1670 Henry Jenkins died in Yorkshire at the age of 169. Petrach Czartan, a Hungarian peasant, was born in 1587, and died in 1772, aged 185.* This is the greatest age we find in any authentic history, — if, indeed, the facts be well established.

In the year 76 the census of Italy was taken, and in the "eighth region," between the Apennines and the Po,

*New American Encyclopædia, Art. *Age*.

there were 124 persons over 100 years of age; three of them were 140; at Rimini, Marcus Aponius was then living at 150.* Lord Bacon collects several cases of great age in his History of Life and Death; but some of them are poorly vouched for.† He says "the old Countess of Desmond" lived to 140. We remember to have heard it said of her in some verses, —

> "Who lived to much more than a hundred and ten,
> And died by a fall from a cherry-tree then.
> What a frisky old girl!"

It is said the famous John of Times (Johannes de Temporibus, so called for the ages he lived through) saw 361 years, but the statement lacks confirmation.‡ M. Prosper Lucas, in a recent work, says that on the 12th of January, 1763, in the hamlet of Conino in Russia, there died a woman named Margaret Cribsowna, wife of Gaspard Raycoul. She was 108 years old. She married him, her third husband, when she was 94 and he 105; they had three children born in that wedlock, all living at their mother's death; the children's hair was white, they had no teeth, but cavities in the gums as if the teeth had been removed; they were of the ordinary size for their age, but crooked in the back, having a faded complexion, with all the other signs of decrepitude. The same author relates that the wife of one of the coachmen of Charles X. bore a child at the age of 65, who likewise had all the marks of senility.§ Wanley tells of a "Cornish beggar," an Irishman by birth, of whom this epitaph was written: —

* Livius, H. N., Lib. VII. c. 50. But Sillig, in his admirable edition, reads 140. See also Gruteri Inscript. 302.

† Works, edited by Ellis and Spedding, (London, 1857,) Vol. II. p. 132, *et seq.*

‡ Wanley's Wonders of the Little World, (London, 1788,) p. 64.

§ Traité de l'Hérédité Naturelle, (Paris, 1850, 2 vols. 8vo,)Tom II. p. 462, *et seq.* On p. 496, *et seq.*, see cases of remarkable precocity. Beyerlink has made a collection of cases of long life in his Theatrum Vitæ Humanæ, Art. *Longævitas* and *Vitæ* (p. 171), where the reader will find curious things. The common works on Longevity require no mention here.

"Here Brawne, the quondam beggar, lies,
Who counted by his tale
Some sixscore winters and above,
Such virtue is in ale.

Ale was his meat, his drink, his cloth,
Ale did his death deprive,
And could he still have drank his ale,
He had been still alive!"

Seventy-one men settled in the town of Newton, Mass., towards the middle of the seventeenth century. The age of thirty of them at death is ascertained; they averaged a little more than 69.*

V. Of the Property of the People. — 1. In 1840 the taxable property of Massachusetts was valued at $307,089,196. In 1850, at $597,936,460. At the present day it is thought to be about $1,000,000,000. This does not include the untaxed property, real and personal, belonging to churches, schools, academies, colleges, and literary, scientific, and benevolent institutions, which would amount to $100,000,000 more. This property is more than $880 to each person in the State. It is more than a dollar apiece to the human race. Less than 250 years ago Massachusetts started with a few Puritans and the wilderness for outfit, and now in eight generations she has accumulated so much property that she could give a dollar to each of the thousand million inhabitants of the earth, and still have all her schools, meeting-houses, town-houses, alms-houses, jails, and literary, benevolent, and scientific institutions, left as nest-eggs to begin the world anew. We have done pretty well for beginners.

This great mass of property is more uniformly distributed than in any of the countries of Europe; but we think less uniformly than in any other New England

* See Jackson's History of Newton, (Boston, 1814,) p. 9, *et seq.*

State, with the exception of Rhode Island. It is pleasant to know that there are 86 Savings Banks in Massachusetts, in which about 177,000 depositors hold property, amounting to more than $33,000,000, about $30 to each man, woman, and child in the State. No depositor, we think, draws interest when his principal amounts to more than $500. The Irish are an acquisitive people, with a considerable instinct for hoarding. In the great towns they have much property in these benevolent institutions. On the other hand, the Africans are more tropical in their habits, hoard little, and have not much property in the Savings Banks or elsewhere. Yet in Louisville we are told of large estates in their hands.

We have not been able to procure the statistics of municipal taxation in Massachusetts. Each of the 333 towns manages its own affairs, and no law requires any return of the amount of money collected. But it would be quite interesting to know the sum raised, and compare the expenses of different towns. The county taxes, it is officially known, have been on the increase continually, for the last ten years. Thus, in 1848, the tax in twelve counties — all except Suffolk and Nantucket — was $233,575; in 1857 it had swollen to $526,535. We are glad to learn that the present Governor, prompt and efficient in many things, is attempting to procure information on this matter.*

In 1857 the valuation of Boston was $258,110,900. We should like to compare this with the property of South Carolina. We have not the facts before us, but we find her State taxes in 1856 were $532,744; of this, $290,488 came from negro slaves. Thus, the entire tax on property and free polls was only $242,256, though each free colored person, children included, is doomed to pay

* See editorial in Boston Daily Advertiser for May 4, 1858.

$2 a year. Hence it appears that more than half the wealth of that great State consists in the persons of its slaves. She had then 17,443,791 acres of taxable land, officially valued at $10,284,001, or about 58 cents an acre.* In 1850 the entire property of South Carolina was estimated in the United States census at $283,867,-709. This included the value of the slaves. The city of Boston alone could buy up all the natural property, all the land and things, in that State, and still have a balance left sufficient to purchase several other slave States.

Property is less equally distributed in Boston than elsewhere in New England: a few men have great estates; many are thriving, but many also are poor. The squalid poverty of New England, its drunkenness, prostitution, crime, flow hither as to a common sink. Boston has her perishing and her dangerous classes, whom no legislation lifts out from their wretchedness and vice. But we shall have a word for them on another page.

We have no means of estimating the annual value of the industry of the people in Massachusetts, or of the income from capital. But in 1855 an accurate census was made of the value of articles produced in the State, though no separation was made between the worth of the material and that of the labor bestowed upon it. From that examination it appeared that the value of articles produced by the people's labor in the year ending June 1, 1855, was $295,820,681.79.† This is more than the worth of all the land and things in the two States of Virginia and South Carolina! Yet it is thought the census of 1855

* Report of the Comptroller-General to the Legislature of South Carolina (Columbia, S. C., 1856), p. 22, *et al.* See also Governor Allston's Message for 1857. The last Annual Message of Mr. Chase, Governor of Ohio, is a model for papers of that kind, containing much valuable information not often found in gubernatorial documents.

† Statistical information relating to Certain Branches of Industry in Massachusetts, &c. Boston. 1856.

did not return more than two thirds of the actual earnings of the people, but the real value of the articles produced here that year would be $300,000,000. So the conceded earnings of that period would purchase all the land in Delaware, North Carolina, and Florida, at the government estimate in 1850.

2. In the year ending November 1, 1857, it appears that 7,714 persons were received into the various almshouses of the three hundred and thirty-three towns in Massachusetts; besides, in the nine months ending the 1st of October, 2,778 other paupers were received into the State almshouses. Thus 10,492 persons were sheltered by the State or municipal charity during that period; on the average, 5,837 persons were wholly supported in the various establishments of the towns or the Commonwealth.

Temporary relief was also municipally afforded to 17,181 others. Thus nearly 28,000 persons were more or less dependent on public charity. But of these nearly all whom the State relieved were foreigners; of the 25,000 helped by the towns, 8,300 were foreigners. Of the 10,492 indoor paupers, we think more than half were born abroad; but, by a strange defect in the public documents, we are not able to verify our conjecture. Of the 25,000 helped by the towns, about 15,000 were brought to poverty by the intemperance of themselves or others! Of the 9,500 who had help from the charity of this county in 1856, less than 1,100 had a settlement in this State; about 8,500 of them were foreigners. Of the whole army of paupers in Suffolk County, more than 8,000 were brought to poverty by drunkenness, in themselves or others! To support this vast mass of pauperism, the towns and the State collectively paid $641,192.41. Let us suppose that $358,807.59 was given by private charity for the support of these or other poor persons. We have then $1,000,000 given to

help the indigent. If the value of the earnings of Massachusetts be but $200,000,000, then our public and private charity of this kind is half of one per cent. of the earnings of the people,— five mills on a dollar. Certainly it is not a very alarming piece of news.

VI. Of Idiocy, Insanity, Blindness, and Sickness in Massachusetts.*—1. On the 30th September there were 63 idiotic or feeble-minded persons in the State institution at South Boston; 10 more had been there in the course of the year. There were also 58 other "idiotic or insane" persons in the various jails of the Commonwealth; thus 121 were in the public institutions of the State, most of them supported wholly at the public cost.

In the autumn of 1854 a census was made of all the idiotic and insane persons in Massachusetts. It was taken with great accuracy, and a careful and detailed Report made by Dr. Jarvis,† so well known for his devotion to those unfortunate persons. From that we construct this table: —

Table XV. — *Of Idiots in Massachusetts.*

Native-born	1,043
Foreigners	44
Total	1,087
Supported by friends	670
Supported by the public	.417

We shall again refer to this valuable document.

2. In the two public lunatic asylums at Worcester and

* Tenth Annual Report of the Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-minded Youth. Boston, 1857.

Abstract of Returns of the Keepers of Jails and of the Overseers of the Houses of Correction for the Eleven Months ending September 30, 1857. Boston. 1857.

† Report on Insanity and Idiocy in Massachusetts, &c. Boston. 1855.

Taunton,* 1,148 insane persons were received in the first eleven months of last year; 670 remained there on the 30th of November. The amount of insanity is quite large. It is caused by the great intellectual activity of the people, the intensity of business, lack of society, the failure of affection; by the vices of passion and the vices of ambition; by celibacy; by drunkenness; and by a dull and gloomy theology, with unnatural ideas of God, of man, and of the relation between the two. In the last report of the asylum at Worcester we find an instructive array of facts, gathered from 3,390 cases, extending over 25 years, from 1833 to 1857. From them we construct the following table.

TABLE XVI. — *Of the Causes of Insanity.*

Causes.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Ill health in general	135	467	602
Special diseases	244	207	451
Troubles attending the reproductive function		184	184
Casualties, exposure, &c.	98	75	173
Excitement, intellectual, moral, and affectional, &c.	399	501	900
Religious excitement of all kinds	132	170	302
Intemperance	413	46	459
Self-abuse	230	22	252
All other causes	23	44	67
Total	1,674	1,716	3,390

TABLE XVII. — *Showing the Percentage of the most Important Causes for 25 Years.*

General ill health	16.4
Troubles on account of the affections	10.8
Intemperance	9.2
Troubles on account of religion	5.5
Self-abuse	5.2
Troubles on account of property	4.7

* Twenty-Fifth Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester. Boston. 1857.

Fourth Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital at Taunton. 1857.

Great pains has been taken with insane persons in Massachusetts; we think no State has made more generous or wise provisions for this unfortunate class. But we do not reach the cause of the evil. That is not to be removed by doctoring, but to be outgrown. To us, in this age of intense business, it is what leprosy once was to a slothful, sluggish, and unclean people, and will no doubt in like manner be outgrown. A man's occupation affects his sanity. We have found that the farmer lives longer than men of any other calling. It seems a little surprising to find how great is the tendency to insanity among the agricultural people. Out of 177 patients remaining at the Worcester Asylum, November 30, 1857, there were 30 farmers, 38 laborers, and 22 shoemakers. We are told on high authority, that there is more insanity in Connecticut than in any part of the world in proportion to the whole number of the people. The tendency to madness is stronger in celibates than among the married people. This follows naturally, and surprises no one.

In the autumn of 1854 a careful census was made to ascertain the number of lunatics in the State, and a valuable report was published. The name of Dr. Jarvis is sufficient authority for the accuracy of the statements which we put into the following table.

TABLE XVIII. — *Of Lunacy in Massachusetts in* 1854.

Total number of lunatics in the State		2,632
Males		1,254
Females		1,378
Natives		2,007
Foreigners		625
Independent — Natives	1,066	
Foreigners	44	
		1,110
Paupers, — Natives	941	
Foreigners	581	
		1,522

At that time the foreign population was estimated at 230,000, and the native at 894,676. It seems the aliens had a greater ratio of insanity than the natives, which we represent by the following table.

TABLE. XIX. — *Showing the Distribution of Insanity in Massachusetts.*

Natives that are lunatics	1	in each	445 natives.
Natives that are pauper lunatics	1	"	951 "
Foreigners that are lunatics	1	"	368 foreigners.
Foreigners that are pauper lunatics	1	"	399 "

Thus it appears that every four-hundredth foreigner is a crazy pauper. But this fact does not show a greater ethnological tendency to madness in them, only that their circumstances are unfavorable to their sanity. Ninety-three per cent of the foreign lunatics are paupers! "Much of their insanity," says Dr. Jarvis, "comes from the intemperance to which the Irish seem to be peculiarly prone." The tendency to madness is a little greater in females than in males; this appears amongst both the native and the foreign population.

Of this great army of lunatics only 435 were supposed to be curable, while 2,018 were declared incurable, — crazy men to be supported for their life. The pecuniary cost is the smallest part of this grievous burden. It would be interesting to ascertain how much of this madness is inherited; but we have not as yet adequate means to determine that question.

Let us put both the idiots and lunatics together in the following table.

TABLE XX. — *Showing the Ratio of Lunatics and Idiots to the Whole Population.*

Population of Massachusetts, 1854.	Lunatics.	One in	Idiots.	One in	Lunatics and Idiots.	One in
1,124,676	2,632	427	1,087	1,034	3,719	302

Thus in Massachusetts in 1854, one man out of each 302 was either a crazy man or a natural fool.

3. The average number of blind persons at the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind was 124; 90 of these were pupils in the course of instruction, 24 were connected with the workshop department.*

4. *Of Sickness.*† — Health is the normal condition of mankind; sickness is unnatural. There is but one natural, normal, and unavoidable form of death, — that by old age; the ripe apple drops from the tree some autumn night, falling in its time. Few men understand how much we lose by neglect of the natural laws of the body, — which are the commandments of the Infinite God, — "lively oracles" writ in these "living stones." Look at these facts: In 1855 there were about 1,132,000 people in our goodly State, — 550,000 males, 582,000 females. Look at this table.

TABLE XXI. — *Of the Age of the People.*

Under 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.
132,944	115,862	110,098	117,047	235,678	165,046
40 to 50.	**50 to 60.**	**60 to 70.**	**70 to 80.**	**80 to 90.**	**90 to 100**	**Over 100.**
111,500	71,829	42,423	20,810	6,138	634	19

To state it in round numbers, 711,000 are under 30, only 421,000 above that moderate age; 248,000 are under 10; 227,000 between 10 and 20; 235,000 between 20 and 30. In other words, out of 100 persons 22 are under 10; 20 are between 10 and 20; 21 between 20 and 30; and only 36 out of the 100 have yet seen their thirtieth birthday. So youthful is the people that every fifth person is a little boy or girl under ten, while only one man in sixteen has seen

* Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, for the Year ending December 31, 1857. Boston. 1858.

† See Report of a General Plan for the Promotion of Public and Personal Health, devised, prepared, and recommended by the Commissioners appointed under a Resolve of the Legislature of Massachusetts, &c. Boston. 1850. 1 vol. 8vo.

his sixtieth year. In the whole State there are but 142,453 persons over 50, — a little more than half the number that are under 10!

On a previous page we divided life into three periods,— the Dependent, the Productive, and the Retiring Age. The Productive age we put between 15 and 60. If we are a little more sanguine in our estimate, and add ten years to the Productive period, making it extend from 15 to 70, then we shall have about 743,000 in that age. The other 400,000 are dependent. Now and then a bright boy or girl is of considerable "pecuniary value" before 15; now and then a man or woman is so well born and well bred that the period of large usefulness continues till 80, or even 90. The most valuable years of John Quincy Adams's life were between 70 and 80. Massachusetts has several examples of this handsome age; but they are always exceptional. The productive power of the people — their bodily, intellectual, and moral power — will depend on the number of men and women in the vigorous age, — say between 25 and 60 or 70.

It appears that 20,734 persons died in Massachusetts in 1856, — that is, about two out of 109. It is not extravagant to suppose that two persons are sick all the time for one that dies; thus 41,468 persons in Massachusetts are continually sick, — that is, 1,132,000 persons endure 41,000 years of sickness in each twelvemonth. If this evil were distributed uniformly over the community, it would give a little more than thirteen days of sickness to each man, woman, and child! How many are continually ailing with one malady or another! what an army of doctors — allopathic, homœopathic, hydropathic, sudoripathic, mixopathic, and pneumatopathic — are waging war on disease! what ammunition and medical weapons, terrible to look upon, are stored up in the great arsenals of this humane

warfare, this really creative fight, tended by diligent apothecaries! The amount of invalidism is frightful to contemplate.

Look a moment at the consequences of sickness. First, there is the positive pain borne directly by the sick, and indirectly by their companions and friends. What a monstrous evil that is! It changes life from a delight to a torment, the natural functions of the body are ill performed, and this frame is found to be not only "wonderfully" made, but also "fearfully." In their normal state all the senses are inlets of delight; but sickness shuts gladness out from all these five doors of the human house, and fills it full of "horrid shapes and shrieks and sights unholy."

Taken as a whole, the indirect pain of such as stand and wait, looking on with eyes of sympathy, and folding their unavailing hands, is more than the sick man directly encounters himself. What a vast amount of suffering from this direct and this reflected pain!

Then there is the pecuniary cost of sickness. The man's power of productive industry has gone from him. The mechanic's right hand has lost its cunning now; the faithful mother would, but cannot, care for husband or for child; the great, nice brain of genius is like the soft *encephalon* of the fool. Let us estimate the cost as light as possible. Of the 41,468 perennial sick, suppose that 21,468 are persons whose power of productive industry is worth nothing to the country, even in their health, — that they only earn their living; that 10,000 are men who, in health, would each earn $300 a year more than it costs to feed, clothe, house, comfort, and amuse them, and 10,000 more are women who, if well, would earn $150 apiece beside their similar keep; then the simple cessation of this industry costs the State $4,500,000 a year. If we should double these figures, and say $9,000,000, we think we should still

be within the mark. Suppose that it costs but a dollar a day to nurse, diet, and doctor each of these 41,468 invalids, — a quite moderate calculation, — that amounts to $15,135,820. We may safely say that sickness costs the people of Massachusetts directly $20,000,000 a year in these two items alone. In other words, if all the people were healthy except the 20,000 who die, Massachusetts would add $20,000,000 more to her annual increase of honest wealth, — to her means of use and beauty.

Besides, the effects of sickness on the higher faculties of man are commonly quite baneful. It weakens all the spiritual powers; the mind loses its activity; the quantity of thought is less, the quality poorer; the man of business cannot buy and sell to advantage; the carpenter cannot plan his work or execute his plan; the scholar's genius is vanished into thin air; the diligent wife, careful about many things, is now only troubled about herself; the moral faculty suffers as much as the intellectual; the jaundiced eye sees nothing of its natural color. The sick man's conscience is abnormal as his digestion or appetite; he can take no just view of moral relations; as well might we expect a lame horse to race well and leap a five-barred gate, as ask a sick man to have just intuitions of the eternal right, or a manly will to do it; he would, but how can he? A sick judge, doctor, minister, schoolmaster, editor, politician, — he does harm, and not good. So the affectional and religious talents lose their value, are clipped within the ring, sweated down, and cannot be taken at their former worth. Spite of himself, the sick man becomes selfish, — the best of sick men. It is the order of nature; he should be selfish, then. His body is sick, it tries to get well; all of its natural vigor is directed to that object, for the material basis of humanity must be preserved. When a ship at sea encounters a violent storm,

leaks badly, is settling in the water, and likely to perish, men cut away the masts, let the costly anchors and unfastened chain-cable go down with the run; the wealthy cargo is cast into the ocean, that they may save the ship and their own lives! So in the storm of sickness, long continued, nature instinctively throws overboard all the costly spiritual freight gathered in a lifetime. The

> "eye whose bend did awe the world
> Doth lose its lustre."

The world's great warrior cries —

> "Give me some drink, Titinius,
> As a sick girl."

There is little exercise of the higher religious faculty; none of that aspiration to the seventh heaven of human devotion; no psalm of lofty gratitude, no deep contritions then; at most, only a dull and humble, passive trust in God. Even that often fails. The affections are often blunted. In health, how manly was this man's philanthropy! now, disarmed, it does not travel forth to look after the far-off heathen, the nearer slave, — or black or white, — the poor, the friendless, or the sick. Nay, the mother, tormented with her own pains, — prophetic now of only death, — forgets the very children that she bore; much more does the less affectionate man forget the wife he loved, and the dear babies who climbed his knee and pulled his healthy beard! Blame them not; the sick has only strength to keep his own soul and body together. All the river of life must then go to turn his own mill. We know well this is not what ministers preach in books, and write in many a romantic tale. But we too have seen much of life, and stood at many a death-bed, — beside noble men whom sickness did yet all unman. Have we not our own experience also? Lame feet must halt, and

sick eyes will drop their lids instinctive, and turn from the dear beauty of the rising sun. Humanity lies low in the hand of sickness. Still more commonly is the temper made sour by long-continued illness. If "a hungry man is an angry man," so is a sick man a peevish one, easily offended, not capable of controlling his wrathful emotions. A schoolmaster with the toothache, a judge with the gout, a bilious doctor, a dyspeptic minister, a sick horse, a dog with a wounded leg, — we all know what these are. This ill-temper is a natural defence. If the arm be broke, the skin, the flesh, the bone itself, else so unfeeling, all become exquisitely sensitive, so that pain may warn us against all things which would annoy and prevent the restoration of the limb. Irritability and peevishness perform the same function; they must guard and keep watch about the sick man's bed, these testy sentinels that so pace forth their nightly round. We have often wondered at the economy of Divine Providence in the healthy body, — not less also thereat in this body when sick.

All the higher faculties are disturbed. The will is weak and capricious, or else its resolution, adherence to conviction, is metamorphosed into obstinacy; persistence is a subjective whim; the judgment is worth little; the opinions represent nothing truly, — so warped is the intellectual mirror. What the sick scholar writes is as unwholesome as he is unhealthy, — it is tainted literature; one might as well eat the flesh of diseased swine, as feed on the literature of sick moralists, historians, preachers, philosophers, poets. The delicate-minded reader feels the author's pulse in his writings. This literary woman has a disease in her spine; all her works, likewise, are tainted and unhealthy. We taste the aloes in many a bitter sermon and bitterer prayer which we have heard. We smell the opium and the gin in much which passes for the literature of passion.

Many a dark ecclesiastical dogma about man and God has had its inspiration in a diseased liver or obstructed bowels. Such things are seldom originated by a great, stout, hearty man, who has a wife and babies at home, and takes a manly relish in meat and drink, — who can run and jump, and skate on ice, and swim in water, his eyes open for the cowslip and the violet of spring! No, they are the work of celibate monks, of sick-bodied ministers breathing the bad air of cells or libraries, their feet cold, their head hot, their whole body in disorder. As poison toadstools grow out of rotten wood, so do the worser fungi of an evil theology shoot out from the mind of diseased ministers. He that has a bitter tongue is not likely to say sweet things of man or God. In matters of pure science it is of no consequence who does the work; all rests on demonstration, deductive from a principle or inductive from facts; Hamilton's Quaternions and Loomis's Astronomy would be worth as much if writ by a sick as a sound man. A man with a dropsy may calculate the trajectory of the last comet, or tell the weight of the fifty-first asteroid: sickness does not vitiate the mathematical demonstration. The nine digits take no man's disease, however infectious: an asymptote has no sympathy with a diseased stomach. But in all works of a moral or religious character the value is personal, not demonstrational; it depends on the character of the writer, and that, at least for the time, depends on his health. What if we were told that Jeremiah had the dyspepsia when he wrote his "Lamentations;" that Jonathan Edwards was laboring with the jaundice when he composed those ghastly sermons on eternal damnation!

Of course we know the exceptions to all this. There are men, and still oftener women, with such sweetness or truth, that the more sickness wilts their roses, the more

will they give their precious sweetness out. We know also the function which sickness has to perform in calling forth the sympathy of man for man.

We intended to say a word on the causes of ill health, yet must forbear; but shall instead ask our readers to attend to this extract from a document written by one of the most intelligent men in the State.

"In order to preserve the freshness and health of the body, we must observe the law which commands constant and rapid change of its integral particles. We die daily, whether we will or not. But the extent to which we are *born* again daily, depends much upon ourselves. The component particles of the body have but an ephemeral existence. Hundreds of generations of them go to make up our individual life. Multitudes of them are dying every hour and every moment; and fresh particles are constantly formed to replace them.

"But this incoming multitude cannot have room and verge enough except the worn-out and effete particles are thrown off. Away, then, with the dead, to make room for the living! is the law; and fortunately we cannot disobey it totally, because part of the work is done independently of our volition, and disobedience to it would be death to the whole body. The removal is effected, that is, the waste particles are carried off, by various and complex organs of respiration, perspiration, and the like; but the pervading characteristic of all is motion. . . . . .

"The automatic motions remove only part of the effete atoms of the body. Voluntary motion must do the rest, or they remain and clog the system. If people were fully aware of this, how much more briskly would they move about to get quickly rid of this dead matter. But how frantically would they fly about, if, instead of carrying the effete particles of their own bodies, each one was obliged to carry, as a burden, the dead particles of some other person. They would die of horror and disgust. As it is, however, very few are conscious of this operation; and thousands in civilized life carry about with sweet complacency their own dead atoms, mixed up with the living ones. They grow feebler and feebler as

the proportion of effete matter grows greater, and that of fresh, living matter less, until at last partial death becomes total death.

"Now, so long as the dead and effete particles are carried off by the various excretions just as rapidly as new and fresh ones are formed by wholesome nutrition, so long are we young and fresh. During the first third of life the vital force is very great, and though the supply through nutrition must exceed waste, in order that there may be growth and consolidation of the body, still the waste is very rapid also. New particles rush in swiftly, cast out the dead ones vigorously and utterly, so that the bodies of the young are fresh and alive all over. The swift-moving machinery of life throws the blood out to every part of the surface, and tinges the firm, elastic flesh with roseate hue. As long as this condition lasts, youth lasts, be the number of years what they may. . . . . .

"The duration of youth depends upon obedience or disobedience of the laws of life. All excesses shorten it. Too much and too little work of brain and limb curtail it. It is shorter in women than in men, mainly because their blood is not duly oxygenated by exercise or work in the open air. It is usually much shorter in the blind than in those who see. In a class of a hundred blind youths there are very few who have the beautiful characteristics of this period of life, — the roseate hue, the rounded limb, the bounding step; and even among those few these beauties fade away earlier than among others. . . . . .

"Exercise, too, being pretty much under his volition, is apt to be neglected, and so the waste and effete particles are not duly carried off. At first they linger a little in the system; then they linger longer. There now begin to be dead and effete particles among the living ones, and the system begins to be a little clogged thereby. From this moment real manhood declines, and real age begins, be the years of life ever so few.

"The spring of life having lost a little of its force, the blood is no longer thrown vigorously out to the periphery of the body; it therefore crowds the great internal vessels, and prepares the way for congestion and organic diseases. The surface becomes a little pale. The flesh loses its elasticity. It looks puttyish and feels flabby. Freshness is now gone, and with it beauty. Adieu youth, adieu manhood; age is here.

"This change is seen sooner in women than in men. Sooner in the blind than in others. Most women in this country are as old at thirty or thirty-five, as they should be at forty-five or fifty. Suppose the years lost by each one to be only ten, what millions of years of bloom and beauty and vigor are lost to each generation! But how can we calculate the billions of years lost to the next generation by reason of the diminished stock of vital force imparted to the offspring!"*

VII. Of the Means for the Education of the People.† — 1. Of the Common and High Schools. — There are 4,360 public schools in Massachusetts, open to all, free to all persons, native or foreign, African or Caucasian, rich or poor. There are 4,838 teachers, — a noble army of schoolmasters. In the summer 195,881 pupils attended the schools; 203,031 in the winter. The schools keep, on the average, seven months and a half in the year. The average attendance of pupils is 177,775. There are in Massachusetts 221,478 children between the ages of five and fifteen. All the large towns save one have public high schools, where girls as well as boys can receive a superior education. Boston is the only exception. Here the controlling men secure the monopoly of superior education for the daughters of the rich.

2. Of the Normal Schools. — Four Normal Schools, public and free to all, contain 345 pupils, 290 of them young women, all preparing to become teachers. These institutions have already received 3,434 pupils, of whom 1,937 graduated at the end of the course of study.

3. Of Private Schools and Academies. — There are 744 of these institutions, containing about 24,000 pupils. Here the cost is paid by the parents of the scholars.

* Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind.
† Twenty-first Annual Report of the Board of Education, &c. Boston. 1858.

4. Of the Colleges. — There are five Colleges, — four Protestant and one Catholic, — containing about 1,100 students, all males. The schools for law, medicine, theology, and science, are attended by about 500 pupils. There is no college for young women; but yet one medical school is for them exclusively.

Thus it appears that about 230,000 young persons received instruction in the various schools of the State in 1857; one-fifth part of the whole population went to school.

5. Besides, the State has two Industrial Schools, one for boys, one for girls.

(1.) In the Reform School for boys,* at Westborough, there were 613 pupils on the 30th of last September. Three fourths are Americans; they are sent there by the courts, and average about 13 years of age. We are sorry to say we cannot speak very well of the plan or the influence of this school.

(2.) In the Industrial School for Girls, at Lancaster,† there were 92. Their average age is about 14. A few years ago private benevolence established a little institution, called "The Guardian for Friendless Girls," in Boston; it did much good work in the two years of its existence. Then the State took the matter in charge, and now reaches out a parental hand to these poor wretches, snatching them from a fate worse than the compulsory doom of the negro slave. It is one of the most significant and valuable charities of the Commonwealth, one of its most righteous acts of justice. There is no conscious antagonism between man and woman: on the whole, men are more tender to women than to each other. Women reciprocate the gentle feeling. Such is

* Eleventh Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Reform School, at Westborough, &c. Boston, 1857.

† Second Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Industrial School for Girls, at Lancaster, &c. Boston, 1857.

the law of nature. Female nurses indulge the male babies; were the nurses men, the girls would get the kinder treatment. But in our civilization hitherto brute force has prevailed, and as woman has less of it than man, only the inferior position has been hers in the state, the church, the community, and the market. Even now, she is by no means thought the equivalent of man. Accordingly, most cruel hardships fall to her lot. One day this will be changed. The terrible vice of prostitution, — what a curse it is! In the future it will be as rare as leprosy and elephantiasis are now in Boston. But this will never be until the popular idea of woman undergoes a revolution. It was a great thing for Massachusetts to stretch out her arm to rescue these poor girls, and save them from the Dead Sea, which covers a whole Sodom and Gomorrah of wickedness! The institution seems well planned, and thus far works well.

VIII. — Of the Means for Repressing Crime. — 1. Of Jails and Houses of Correction.* In the eleven months ending September 30, 1857, there were 13,072 persons committed to the various common jails and houses of correction in Massachusetts. We put the details into the following table.

Table XXII. — *Punishment for Crime.*

Number	13,072
Foreigners	8,334
Natives	4,738
Males	10,649
Females	2,423
For Intemperance	5,445 !
All other Crimes	7,627
Addicted to habitual Intemperance	7,706 !
Not addicted to habitual Intemperance	5,366

* Abstract of Returns of the Keepers of Jails, and of the Overseers of the Houses of Correction, for the eleven months ending September 30, 1857. Boston, 1857.

But of this number of "criminals," 491 were witnesses, kept in jail according to an ungodly custom which has become a law. 4,853 of the actual criminals were unable to read and write. The average number of prisoners on each day of the year was 1,733; but 1,876 were in jail on the 30th of last September; 3,358 had been in jail before.

2. Of the State Prison.* On the 30th of September this institution contained 440 convicts. 279 native Americans, 154 foreigners. Massachusetts sends to her own State Prison nearly as many criminals as all foreign nations put together. The great crimes which are punished there are not committed by Irishmen, but by our own citizens. 349 men were there for crimes against property, only 91 for offences against the person, — crimes of wrath or lust. It is pleasant to see that with the advance of civilization crime is diverted from the substance of man to his accidents. The health of the convicts seems well cared for; few prisons in the world exhibit so small a mortality. There were but four deaths out of 440 persons! This is at the rate of 90 in 10,000. Now the rural population of England, at the adult age, lose 77 out of 10,000, the town population of Manchester 124 out of 10,000, and the British soldiers in barracks at home from 110 to 204 in 10,000. We wish we could say some other good things of the State Prison.

3. Of the gallows. — During the last year the State did not stain her hands with the blood of a murdered murderer: 101 killed themselves, but Massachusetts killed no man nor woman. We trust the days of the gallows are ended.

On the whole, this is a gratifying result; the experiment of self-government works well; this is a great

*Annual Report of the Board of Inspectors of the Massachusetts State Prison. October 1, 1857. Boston, 1857.

success in respect to numbers, health, property, intelligence, morality. Out of New England it will not be easy to find a million and a quarter of people living so comfortably, with such industry and wealth, such comfort, intelligence, and manly virtue. Yet there are still great evils to be overcome. See how the good and ill get summed up in Boston. On this little spot, — more than half of it made land, rescued from the sea, — to speak in round numbers, there are 161,000 persons, — 76,000 native Americans, 85,000 foreigners: such are the figures for 1855. 2,500 couples were married in 1856, — 1,500 foreign, 1,000 American. 5,900 were born here that year, — 4,500 of foreign, 1,400 of native parents. There were 4,200 deaths, at the average age of but 20.

The taxable property in 1857 was $258,000,000. 2,500 persons entered the almshouses, yet only 670 were there on the average. The pauperism of Boston is small compared with the whole population; 670 permanent paupers out of 161,000 inhabitants, 85,000 of them Irish, is not alarming. Besides, it should be remembered that poverty has driven great shoals of poor people to this town within a dozen years.

There are 267 public schools: last year they took more than 26,000 pupils into their hospitable arms; over 22,000 are there learning all the time; for the blessed doors stand open all the day to the children of all nations, all forms of religion, of any race. With universal justice do our democratic institutions distribute the great charity of education to all. Private bounty opens evening schools also, for children of a larger growth, who are yet babies in knowledge. The dead hand of Mr. Lowell reaches out of his grave, and opens the door of science and letters to thousands of thoughtful men and women.

The amount of crime looks formidable at first, but it is

not alarming for a great town so crowded with Irish Catholics and other strangers. 270 quiet-looking policemen keep the peace of the city; the sun never goes down on their watchful work. Four detectives are on the look-out for suspicious persons. In 1857, 19,000 arrests were made, 9,000 commitments. Of the 19,000, 15,000 were foreigners, 4,000 Americans; 4,300 women. Of the 19,000, 10,000 were for drunkenness, less than 9,000 for all other offences! One was punished for violating the liquor law! As there are 2,230 places where intoxicating spirit is sold to be drunk on the premises, it is only fair to infer that this man was a sinner above all that dwelt in the other 2,229 liquor-shops! The amount of property reported as stolen, was only $62,000, and of that $48,000 was recovered by the police, and restored to its lawful owners. Hence, it seems that *this* brotherhood of thieves does but a small business; and as they don't keep quite a shilling where they steal three and ninepence, it seems the profit is but little in comparison to the risk. We hardly think this branch of the trade is a "living business," certainly it is organized but ill. Of course our figures do not include the thefts committed by fraudulent merchants, bankers, and officers of incorporated companies, who belong to the same brotherhood of thieves, but do only the heavy stealing.

It is a singular mixture of good and evil, — 267 public schools, 245 public houses of ill-fame, 22,000 children daily in school, 2,200 tippling shops open all day, 10,000 men and women yearly taken up for public drunkenness! *

* See the Annual Report of the Chief of Police, 1858. City Document, No. 5. He says, (p. 28,) "It is an admitted fact that intemperance is the direct origin of more poverty, more crime, and consequent suffering, than all other causes combined."

After all, it is a good town, this dear old Puritanic Boston. We wish we may be mistaken, but yet we think it the best city in the world, — the most moral, intelligent, charitable, and progressive, — the most hospitable to a great, new truth of philosophy, morals, philanthropy, or religion. We hope there are better towns, but know not where to find them.

At the end of this long paper we wish to make a few suggestions, which may serve as moral to the tale.

1. Our New England institutions have been subjected to a very severe test. They were designed for Protestant Americans, — men educated to freedom, with Teutonic blood in their veins. What if none else had come here in this century? We should have been a quite different people, with much less wealth, — for the Irish labor has been a great industrial force, perhaps as valuable as the water-power of the mills on the Connecticut or the Merrimac. Our social development we think would be far in advance of its present condition. But causes which none foresaw brought foreigners here by the thousand, — men of a different nationality, chiefly Celtic people, nay, Irish, foreign in origin, manners, religion, ethnological disposition. What made it worse, they had vices which centuries of oppression fixed on these outcasts. They were poor and servile. Want, ignorance, oppression, the greatest evils which retard civilization, had bound them with a threefold chain. The Irish had the vices of their condition, wretchedness, beggary, drunkenness, deceit, lying, violence, treachery, malice, superstition; they brought with them the most bigoted priesthood in all Christendom. What should be done? Some men said: "Shut them out from all our political institutions. Let them be with us, not of us. Democracy is for native Americans, not foreign Catholic Irish." But wiser counsels prevailed. After a few years,

the foreigner who wills becomes a citizen. No property qualification is required, only an educational qualification. If he can read his neck-verse and write his name, he claims benefit of clergy, becomes a citizen in full, eligible to any office except the one he could not fill worse than it has been. The advent of a quarter of a million foreigners — 200,000 of these Irishmen — has been a sore trial to our democratic institutions. No war would be so severe a test. They have stood it well. No doubt the presence of such a people has the same effect for a time on our civilization which it has on the parts of the town where they settle. Dirt and rum, with pestilence and blows, follow their steps: their votes already have debauched the politics of the city, which they will degrade yet more in the next ten or twenty years. They have bad advisers of their own and of our own. Not an Irish newspaper in America is on the side of humanity, education, freedom, progress.

Yet this evil is but temporary; like the malaria which follows draining a swamp, or flowing a meadow, or opening a canal. Our institutions will correct most of the ills we complain of, — our industry, our schools, newspapers, books, and freedom of thought. The Irish have many excellent qualities; the women are singularly virtuous, the men full of fun, wit, and joyous good-humor. They accumulate property; escaping from want little by little. Ignorance will disappear, and then the oppression of the priest will also soon end. The next generation of Irish will be quite unlike this. The Catholic Church will not change; none escape the consequence of a first principle. The logic of its despotic idea is the manifest destiny of the Roman Church. In this age none enters that cave of Triptolemus but he loses his manhood; the first step costs

that. Mr. Brownson is the most distinguished Catholic in America, a man of very large intellectual talents, great power of acquisition, and the facile art to reproduce in distinct and attractive forms. He is powerful in speech, as with the pen, having also an industry which nothing daunts, or even tires. But compare the Democratic Brownson, fighting — (his life was always a battle, is, and will be)— fighting for liberty, for man and woman, with the Catholic Brownson, the "Saint Orestes" of some future mythology!

"Tantum Religio potuit suadere malorum."

The Catholic Church will not change, — cannot change; its future, like its past,

"Horribili super aspectu mortalibus instans."

But it may die; of this we are sure, it cannot stand against the free school, the free press, the free pulpit, the open vote of all the people. When the Irishmen escape from their two worst enemies,—their priests and our demagogues, — we shall see a noble harvest of men ripening under the great sun of Democracy.

2. The New Englanders set too little value on physical health. They do not prize a strong body. Men in cities always decay in vigor; they are smaller in size, feebler in strength. The average age at death, in Boston, is not quite 20. In Dukes County it is over 45. So 20 men in Dukes County will live 900 years; in Boston, only 400! There is a great odds in the healthiness of towns. In Lowell 21 die out of 1,000 each year; in Boston, 24; in Baltimore, 25; in Philadelphia, 26; in Savannah, 41; in New Orleans, 81! Out of 1,000 men at New Orleans, 60 more will die in a year than at Lowell. There is a simi-

lar odds in different parts of this city.* Men take little notice of these things, and try to live where they are sure to die. They attend much to money, little to man, and so, in getting the means of living, they lose life itself. Farmers die at 64; shoemakers at 43; printers at 36. So 36 farmers will live as long as 43 shoemakers, or 64 printers. Why? The farmer breathes air; the shoemaker, wax and leather; the printer, ink and type-metal.† In schools great stress is laid on training the mind, — always the mind, nothing but the mind. The most excessive stimulants are applied to make little girls learn the maximum of books in the minimum of time. We forget that God also made the body, and, if this "earthen vessel" be cracked, that all the spiritual "treasure" runs out, and perishes from the earth. For success in life there is needed a good brain and a good body. One is worth little without the other. What God hath joined, we are everlastingly putting asunder. But most of the eminent men in America have tough bodies; what power of work is in them! Look at the rich merchants, at our great lawyers and judges, men of science, politics, letters. They are men of vigorous health, who can eat dinners, and sleep o' nights, and work also days long; they live to a decent and respectable age. A venerable doctor of medicine, more than 80 years old, may be seen every day in Boston walking his rounds, at that great age manfully representing not only the science, but also the charity, of that healing art he has done so much to improve as well as to apply; we never look at Dr. James

* See Dr. Curtis's valuable Report on the Census of Boston, for 1855, (Boston, 1856,) p. 55, *et seq.*

† On the influence of improper food and bad air to shorten life, see the admirable work which we must thank Miss Florence Nightingale for calling out,— Mortality of the British Army, at Home and Abroad, and during the Russian War, as compared with the Mortality of the Civil Population in England. Illustrated by Tables and Diagrams London. 1858. Folio (pamphlet). See, too, the Sanitary Report of Massachusetts, pp. 143, *et seq.* 158, 36, 249, *et al.*

Jackson without reverent thankfulness for the wise and temperate vigor which has kept him useful so long. Mr. Quincy has a national reputation, not only for integrity, which never forsook him in times of trial, but also for that strength of body which holds nobly out in his eighty-seventh year. The happy old age of these two venerable and well-known men is due to their inheritance less than to their active, regular, and temperate habits; because wise, their life is also long.

The fashionable idea of what a woman should be is nearly as pernicious as the theological conception of what God is, — almost as unnatural. She must be as feeble as a ghost. Hardly can she bear the burden of her ill-supported clothes. Steady and continuous toil is impossible to such a doll. She glories in her shame, and is as proud of weakness as Hercules and Samson are supposed to have been of their legs and great burly shoulders. But we doubt if it be natural that a "cultivated woman" should be a cross betwixt a ghost and a London doll. Charlemagne's daughter, on her shoulders carrying home her lover through the treacherous and newly-fallen snow, is a little nearer the natural type of the animal woman. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," though reported as a curse for man alone, is a blessing which the Infinite pronounces also on woman; the second benediction recorded in Genesis.

A certain amount of work is necessary to keep the body sound. Our life is the dying of old particles, and their replacement by new ones. Part of the effete matter must be got rid of by perspiration, through the pores of the skin. The natural work of earning food, shelter, raiment, is also the natural means for health. If this be not done, there is an accumulation of dead matter, — and the delicate woman, too proud to cook her dinner or wash her

clothes, at length comes to this vile drudgery,—the menial work of dragging about all day a piece of "a slovenly, unhandsome corse." Heaven save us from the righteous sentence to such hard labor for life! No court of doctors can reverse the decision of that Infinite Chief Justice whose law is the constitution of the universe. Let us suppose an average New England woman at her marriageable age weighs 120 pounds, and a man 140 pounds. Suppose two idle lovers of this bulk have so lived that ten per cent. of their bodies is thus effete,—dead, but not buried. When they stand up and join hands in wedlock, there is a marriage of 234 pounds of live man and woman, and also of 26 pounds of male and female corpse! We know a family where one mother bore fourteen children,—none of them died under 75 years of age. A woman who bears, breeds, and brings up a dozen, or half that number, of healthy, hardy, and long-lived sons and daughters, so far as that goes, is a mother worth being proud of. Had such a generation of women as now fill up our great towns lived in New England a hundred years ago, the Revolution would have been impossible. Puny women may become dry nurses to cowards, not mothers to great, brave, burly-bodied men. If we look into the church registers of the country towns for the last one hundred and fifty years, we find from eight to twelve births to a marriage. The children grew up, the parents did not think "a large family is a great curse!" We know a man whose six male ancestors, now sleeping in New England soil, will average about seventy-seven years; while the six female come up to about eighty. The first and the last of these women each bore her eleven children,—one of them had but seven, and she became a widow at forty,—and one had fourteen.

In Boston, this year, 5,800 will be born; of these more than 1,000 will die before the 1st of January, 1859. Part of this monstrous mortality will come from bad management, bad air, bad food,—from poverty;—want still prowls about the cradle and clutches at the baby's throat,—this ugly hyena of civilization;—but much of it also from the lack of vitality in the mother. Yet more of it, from the bad habits of men, debauched by intemperance of various kinds, visiting the iniquity of the father upon the children, to the third and fourth generation!

It is rather a puny set of men who grow up in our great towns,—spindle-legged, ("without visible means of support,")—ashamed of their bodies, (not wholly without reason,) yet pampering them with luxuries. We have left off manly games, to our hurt; but it was refreshing to see men and women rejoice in skates last winter. The members of engine companies are the only men who can go faster than a walk; but for the frequent fires, we fear running would become one of the "Lost Arts." Military trainings are getting out of fashion, for war is deservedly hateful; and the intemperance which has always been the attendant, if not of military, at least of militia glory, has made the public a little fearful of that common sort of manly pastime. Our few soldiers have fine uniforms, they march well,—on a smooth road, a mile at a time,—and perform their evolutions with the precision of clock-work;—such regular uniformity we have never seen in the armies of France, Austria, or Prussia, or even England. But the city soldiers lack bodily power. In the time of Shays's rebellion, in the winter of 1786–7, a company of Boston light infantry had twelve hours' notice that they must march to Springfield. They started at daylight next morning,—there were about ninety in rank and file. We had

the story from one of them, a young carpenter then,—an old merchant when he told the tale. Each man had his weapons, his blanket, and three days' provision on his back. By the road-side they ate their rough, cold dinner, at Framingham, twenty-six miles off; they slept at Worcester, eighteen miles further on. The next day it stormed, and through snow eight inches deep they marched forty-six miles more. They stopped their music — only a fife and drum — ten miles from their journey's end, and when at eight o'clock in the evening they wheeled into Springfield, the solid tread of the men was the first tidings the insurgents got that the troops had left Boston! If the "Tigers" of 1858 were to march ninety miles in two days, there would be nothing left of them — but a bear-skin!

3. Drunkenness is still a monstrous evil. Of the 25,000 persons aided by public municipal charity last year, 15,000 were brought to poverty by drunkenness; of the 13,000 more in the jails, 8,000 were "addicted to habitual intemperance;" 23,000 victims in almshouses or jails. Mother of want, ignorance, and crime, drunkenness is also mother of the madman and the fool. She has her head-quarters in Boston, where 2,200 dram-shops are on tap all the year! 10,000 men arrested for drunkenness! Shall we wonder that babies die,—1,000 in their first year? Drunkenness is a male vice; but the cruellest sufferings thereof come on the unoffending mother, daughter, sister, wife! *

One other vice, the crime against woman, leaves its ghastly stain in all our great towns. This will not end till there is a revolution in the popular idea of woman. Then it will pass off, as other vices yet more monstrous

* See some most important remarks on the effects of intoxicating liquors in Drs. Bucknill and Tuke's Manual of Psychological Medicine, (London, 1858,) pp. 44, 366, *et al.*

and unnatural have vanished away before the rising sun of knowledge, which bears healing on its wings.

The evils we have mentioned — crime, drunkenness, prostitution, such poverty in the midst of such wealth — show clearly enough how ill the social forces of the people are organized as yet. Natural rights are only to be had on condition that man performs his natural duties. In America we have organized the State for political purposes better than the community for the social development of the individual. But take Massachusetts as she is, much has been done to overcome our three great enemies, — want ignorance, oppression. Much more is now doing for the higher development of the noblest faculties of man. How much yet remains to be done! It is safe to say there are means now within the reach of this State, whereby in a few generations the average age of the people might be doubled, and one man then live as long as two live now. If a man sow death, he reaps it; if life, of such also is the harvest. We can abolish drunkenness, — not all at once, not by violence, but by the gradual elevation of the people. Then what an increase there will be of plenty, knowledge, cleanliness, and peace. How much will crime be diminished, and life lengthened out in beauty!

In common with all mankind, we have made one great mistake: we have thought education was to be mainly of the intellect, understanding, imagination, reason. So we omit the moral and affectional faculties, — the power to know right and to do right, — the power to love a few, many, or all men. We cultivate the religious powers more poorly than any other, — tying a man down with a theology which debases his nature, makes him a coward and a slave. This great river of God runs to waste. One day we shall correct all this. Great ideas of science, justice,

and love shall be the creed of a people who know and love the Infinite Father of all mankind. Already we have a church without a bishop, a State without a king, a community without a lord, a family with no holder of slaves. One day we shall have also a community without idleness, want, ignorance, drunkenness, prostitution, or crime,—wherein all men and women who are by nature fit shall be naturally wed, children be born according to nature, grow up healthy, and die manly of old age. What is not behind us is before, and the future will be brighter than the past.

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